

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00812 101608Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----101610Z 126259 /44

O 101527Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 514

S E C R E T AMMAN 0812

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PSDC, OVIP (SECRETARY CYRUS VANCE)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 029778, (B) STATE 030097, (C) AMMAN 0803

1. WE HAVE JUST COMPLETED DIFFICULT DAY OF FUNERALS FOR QUEEN ALIYA AND THOSE KILLED WITH HER.

2. STATE MOURNING WILL LAST FOR SEVEN DAYS THROUGH FEBRUARY 17; ROYAL COURT MOURNING IS FOR 40 DAYS.

3. KING HAS YOUR MESSAGE AND OFFER OF POSTPONEMENT. TOMORROW IS WEEKLY RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY AND THEREFORE WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO HAVE ANY JORDANIAN REACTION TO IDEA OF POSTPONEMENT BEFORE FEBRUARY 12. MY INTENTION, GIVEN DEPTH OF TRAGEDY HERE AND OTHER PREOCCUPATIONS - ASAD AND KHADDAM CAME FROM SYRIA FOR FUNERAL, ALONG WITH GENSCHER AND IRANIAN EMPRESS - IS NOT TO PRESS FOR A RESPONSE UNTIL THE 12TH AT THE EARLIEST. MY JUDGMENT IS THAT KING WILL WANT TO GO ON WITH VISIT, PERHAPS WITH SOMEWHAT LESS PROTOCOL (ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE HONORS). WE WILL PROCEED THEREFORE ON ASSUMPTION VISIT IS ON UNTIL WE HEAR OTHERWISE.

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4. RE PARA 6 REFTEL (A), WE BELIEVE THERE IS NO PROBLEM WITH SUB PARAS A AND B AND ON PARA A WE COULD PROBABLY ARRANGE FIRST MEETING WITH KING AT 2000. ON PARA C, SINCE KING (A LATE RISER) IS GIVING BREAKFAST RATHER THAN CROWN PRINCE (AN EARLY RISER), WE BELIEVE 8:30 TIME CAN BE ARRANGED, ONCE WE CONFIRM VISIT IS ON.

PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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